

WASHINGTON -- Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the final version of the bill has been passed.

Congressman Olver is a member of the House Transportation Appropriation Subcommittee and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

"The Athol-Orange area is clearly in need of public transportation. Jobs and economic growth are dependent on having a reliable transportation system."

"This funding will help to provide accessibility to educational centers, health and social service facilities, and other community resources."

The provision in the FY '99 Department of Transportation funding bill is directed toward the effort to develop a pilot project in the Athol-Orange area.

The CTAA preliminary proposal for the pilot project includes a Dial-A-Ride service, a shuttle bus service, and a combination of the two. The Dial-A-Ride service would serve as a feeder to the shuttle bus service.

The North Quabbin Transportation Co-op is currently assisting in identifying vehicles available for use in the pilot project.

While much of the focus of the plan will be on Orange-Athol, Winchendon will be part of the initial phase of the project.

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